

based on the market price, while allowing dollar bills to be exchanged for gold at that rate.

Had the United States been on the gold standard, or some other fixed standard, we would not be in the inflation crisis we are in today.

I hope to work with the new Republican majority to make sure this issue gets the attention it deserves.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR RURAL JOB CREATORS

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my bill, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act.

Earlier this year, the House resoundingly passed my bipartisan Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act. Rural small businesses face unique challenges that big city businesses do not. Nearly 20 percent of the United States population lives in rural areas and yet, businesses in rural areas raised under 2 percent of total capital over the last 3 years.

West Virginia, which I am so proud to represent, is a very rural State, where no city has a population greater than 50,000 people, so my legislation simply requires the Security and Exchange Commission, SEC, Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to identify and report to Congress those challenges rural small businesses face when trying to access our capital markets. This will make it easier for Congress to then act to address these problems.

My bill would make it easier for Congress to do our jobs and make sure rural small businesses like in West Virginia, are not left behind. I hope the Senate takes up this commonsense measure promptly.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia and appreciate his strong passion in representing the great people of West Virginia. He is a good friend, and I am glad that he could join us here today.

Earlier, I was talking about the need for this country to reclaim economic growth in order to dig ourselves out of the hole that this absurd institution and lack of leadership from Washington, D.C., has created for the American people in the form of \$32 trillion of debt and ridiculously stagnant economic growth.

After decades of being able to achieve growth in the 3 and 4 percent range, we are now sitting in the doldrums of 1-percent-type economic growth. That might even be rather robust in the era of Joe Biden.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) to expand upon this important point.

□ 1145

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ROY, for yielding.

The President's budget recommendation came over a month late yesterday, and there was one detail I read in The New York Times, so it must be true, al-

though that is the only place I have had a chance to see it yet, and what immediately popped into my mind when I read this detail, is that Karine Jean-Pierre said last week—I can remember her saying it—that the President's economic plan is working for the American people. That popped back into my head, because the detail disclosed by The New York Times is that the administration predicts economic growth in this fiscal year not 3½ percent, not 4 percent certainly, not 2½ percent, not 1½ percent, but six-tenths of a percent.

You have to start talking about economic growth and what the economists call basis points, because it is so small. So if the economic plan of the Biden administration is working for the American people, that means 60 basis points of economic growth anticipated in the year.

And guess what the Biden administration says about that? We should do nothing different. We should keep doing the same thing that is producing six-tenths of a percent of economic growth, except one other thing: We should pile the burden of a lot more taxes on the economy, because apparently that is going to—because what do we need? Thirty basis points of economic growth? Republicans believe we need to change.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I would inquire as to how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I will use every bit of that. I appreciate the point that the gentleman from North Carolina just made, because it is critically important and it merits at least one final repetition, that this great country racked up the level of debt that we currently have today relative to the size of its economy in 1946. But why was that? To rid the world of fascism, to confront our enemies, to defeat those enemies, and to protect this great country.

Then we embarked for 50 years and grew ourselves to the point to be able to balance the budget by 2000, with strong economic growth. It took that much time.

Here we sit today in 2023 with \$32 trillion of debt, sitting, at the President's own admission, at 60 basis points of economic growth this year. He wants his grand solution to be, oh, we will just rack up \$17 trillion more debt in the next decade, because I am going to save \$3 trillion by taxing the American people and regulating the American people.

It doesn't work. This is President Biden's actual form of voodoo economics. He is going to level this country, layer mountains more debt on our kids and grandkids, all while funding the very things that are undermining our ability to have economic growth, prosperity, and freedom.

As I noted before, the millions of dollars going to the EPA to turn an American citizen into a felon and put him into jail because he had a pond on his ranch, the millions of dollars in the name of clean air that are going to methane regulations to drive the price of gas and the price of energy up for the average American.

Every single American should demand of his or her Representative in this body that we stand up to a tyrannical executive branch overstepping its bounds, undermining our freedom, and undermining economic growth.

Every Member of this body should look to cut spending this year of the Federal bureaucracy, return it to pre-COVID levels as a baseline, save \$3 trillion by getting government out of the way, restore economic growth and hope and opportunity for our kids and grandkids, stop funding the very things that are undermining our well-being, secure our country, secure our border, have a sparingly used but lethal, nonwoke military that will kill people and destroy things when they need to, and restore the greatness of this country by shrinking Washington and growing America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

CELEBRATING VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is so exciting to be up here and to be able to have this discussion.

I want to thank the minority leader, my colleague and good friend, Mr. HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for allowing me this time to direct everyone's attention to the importance of this month.

I know that it is Women's History Month, and we have been hearing so much about this. But what an honor it is for me to stand in front of you today because it is also Virgin Islands History Month.

I stand on the shoulders of strong Virgin Islanders who came before me, a people who are known for their courage, leadership, sacrifice, and, most importantly, their resilience.

The Virgin Islands are known for so much more than just white sandy beaches and as a popular vacation destination. I tell people all the time, there are more than just the beaches. There is a reason why seven nations have fought, fought, and done what was necessary to attempt to own these beautiful islands.

We are made of culture-rich lands and a diverse history. Though not always pretty, there is great beauty in

our past that shaped our present and directs us toward our future.

Like most Caribbean countries, the Virgin Islands history begins with the story of precolonial inhabitants of the island and, of course, of slavery, and even beyond that to a rich history of people, of families, of communities working and striving every day.

Many people are unaware that the Virgin Islands is the only place that is part of the United States where Columbus actually set foot. Many other places he just looked out and said, I am going to name it this or that or the other. But the Virgin Islands and, in particular, the island of St. Croix is the place where he actually had resistance from the inhabitants who lived there, and we know that from his own logbooks, from people on the boat who fought, who recognized that the Caribs that were there were putting up a resistance to these men coming in 1492.

In 1733, on the island of St. John, we have recorded the first major slave insurrection in the western hemisphere. The individuals and people there were so incensed at being enslaved that they organized themselves, actually overthrew those who had enslaved them, and held the island for a year before the Danes could organize with the English, the Spaniards, with others to fight back and take back the land.

I am so grateful that in this last Congress, this body, in a bipartisan way, were willing to support a recognition of that. This year, there will be a plaque put up at Ram Head on the island of St. John, the site of where the organizers brought themselves together and made the determination that they would rather commit suicide than go back to slavery. Ram Head is the location where they engaged in collective suicide by jumping off of the cliff rather than going back to slavery.

In 1848, the Virgin Islands, on the island of St. Croix, is also the place where individuals organized, worked together, and overthrew, completely, slavery well before the Emancipation Proclamation was made here in the United States. It is one of only two places, the Virgin Islands and the island and the people of Haiti, who were able to obtain their freedom through violent and organized overthrow.

We are blessed as Virgin Islanders to celebrate Virgin Islands history, as well as the same month as women's history, because Virgin Islands history is not complete, of course, without women.

To begin, I must first acknowledge the record number of women, as well as the record number of people of color currently serving in this Congress. This record represents a 59 percent increase from the 96 women who served in the 112th Congress. Women in this body have come a long way. I am thrilled to continue to break glass ceilings as well, as we impact history.

For decades, women of all backgrounds have worked to break barriers in communities, workplaces, schools,

universities. We often forget to give recognition to the lesser-known women. The great Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman to serve in this body, famously said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

I say let's take it a step further. Forget the seat, give women the whole table and watch what happens.

As a Black woman, I think about my own mother and all mothers who every day, even when it wasn't common to work, they sacrificed, occupied space where they were underrated, underappreciated, and marginalized.

Without that history and those individuals, we would not be who we are today, which is why I am proud and I am honored to represent my home, my ancestral home, of the Virgin Islands.

During this Virgin Islands History Month and Women's History Month, I proudly recognize the indomitable spirit of women like Mary Thomas, one of the organizers of Fireburn; Anna Heegaard, who was the woman who spoke to the Danish Governor at the time and convinced and talked with him about emancipation; Bertha Boschulte, one of our educators; Arona Petersen; Senator Ruby Rouss, who was one of the first aide-de-camps of General Eisenhower during the war, a Virgin Islander; Edith Bornn, Lorraine Berry, one of the great legislators on our island, who were early trailblazers who championed women's freedom, equality, and power for Virgin Islanders.

While the faces of power are growing and there is still work to be done, it is refreshing to look back to gain inspiration and encouragement from Virgin Islanders who have gone before us as these women faced deliberate, unconscious bias, and yet they prevailed.

We should note the importance of representation for women in leadership, politics, law enforcement, across every sphere is evident. In politics alone, evidence shows that more women in public decisionmaking and public policy produce policies that benefit women, children, families, in general.

Women are more inclined to work across the aisle with colleagues, to work in a bipartisan fashion, to negotiate. As a lawyer, I know that the best contracts, the best negotiations are when everybody has to feel a little bit of pain for it to be the best. Women are willing to do that.

We know that loans given to women's businesses exponentially support families and entire communities than loans given to men. We need women.

Let us all continue the great work, all of us. That includes men who are brothers, sons, fathers. We need you all to break the bias and advance the cause of women's rights in our communities, our government, and our world.

Throughout the month of March, let us continue to celebrate heritage history as we look to our future. Happy Women and Virgin Islands History Month.

I want to rise and highlight a few influential women that have helped shape Virgin Islands history during Virgin Islands History Month. Now, of course, so often in the Virgin Islands, we talk about the men and the men have done amazing things.

The Virgin Islands has produced great actors and artists like Camille Pissarro, one of the founders of French impressionism; actors like Kelsey Grammer and Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs. We have tremendous athletes in our past like Horace Clarke, Elrod Hendricks, and, of course, my own cousin, Elmo Plaskett, all having served in professional baseball; Peter Holmberg, a native St. Thomian has done amazing things in sailing, as well as the Jackson family, father and sons are tremendous boxers.

□ 1200

Everyone knows us for having had Tim Duncan, one of the greatest, the GOAT, NBA players in history, and musicians like Alton Adams, the first naval bandmaster; Dion Parson, who has worked at Jazz at Lincoln Center and has one of the most amazing jazz ensembles; and Jon Lucien, another great artist.

These are all tremendous. The men are great, but let us first talk about a few of the women in Virgin Islands history.

The first one I can think of is Eulalie Rivera. Ms. Rivera was born on August 2, 1907, in Frederiksted, St. Croix, to Carl Rohlsen and Henrietta Williams. During her lifetime, Ms. Rivera played a tremendous role in the Virgin Islands.

In her autobiography "Growing Up in St. Croix," Ms. Rivera gives an account of her life that portrays the attitudes and culture of the Virgin Islands at that time, from witnessing the transfer of the Virgin Islands from the Danish West Indies to the Virgin Islands of the United States, a change in ownership and culture, to rumors of being the first woman to ride a bicycle on St. Croix.

Eulalie's mother passed away during childbirth, so she was raised in homes for children, where she was instilled with a love of learning. Ms. Rivera dedicated more than 30 years to the education system in the Virgin Islands and taught at the Christiansted kindergarten, the Diamond School, La Grande Princess School, and the Claude O. Markoe School.

She was instrumental in helping the Caribbean culture and Virgin Islands culture by helping to create such activities as the St. Croix Christmas Festival. She served as the president of the Women's League of St. Croix, supervisor of the Lutheran Church Sunday school, founder of the Independent Citizens' Movement political party, charter member of the St. Croix Business and Professional Women's Club, and as a member of the Frederiksted Democratic Club, the Frederiksted Hospital Auxiliary, the Virgin Islands League of

Women Voters, the Committee on Aging, and the Friends of Denmark. She was busy. She loved her home.

In 1974, the Grove Place Elementary School was renamed after her. She was a beloved ancestor and elder.

I also recognize Eileen Petersen. Eileen Ramona Petersen was born on St. Croix and holds the distinct privilege of being the first woman to serve as a judge in the United States Virgin Islands. She is also one of the few women jurists throughout the Caribbean region.

I can recall Judge Petersen telling me about the fact that, after she was nominated and confirmed in the Virgin Islands as a judge, the men thought that they would get her, and she did not have an office. She didn't have internal chambers in which to work.

Every day at lunchtime, she would take all the files from her courtroom and go sit in her car to work on the cases before then going back to court and making decisions because there was no place else for her to work.

That did not stop her from doing her job, executing justice and doing what was right. Judge Petersen was the first-appointed judge of the municipal court, now the Virgin Islands Territorial Court, by then-Governor Melvin Evans in 1971.

She became a practicing lawyer in 1967 in Washington, D.C., and she returned home to the Virgin Islands to give that education, that mind, so much that she had learned, back to her people. She became an assistant attorney general under Attorney General Francisco Corneiro. After 20 years of service on the bench, she resigned and is now in her retirement.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention another judge who is still with us, the Honorable Denise M. Francois.

Denise Francois was born on St. Thomas, obtained her bachelor of arts from Amherst College, and continued at the University of San Diego School of Law, where she received her juris doctorate. She was admitted to the State Bar of California, the Virgin Islands Bar, and the U.S. Court of Appeals.

She was a partner in a law firm on St. Thomas, where she worked for the people. In 2013, she was appointed judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. She has chaired the Advisory Committee on Rules and aided in drafting the Virgin Islands Rules of Civil Procedure and the Virgin Islands Rules of Evidence. She is still blazing a trail as a great jurist and legal mind.

I love libraries, and I love books. Of course, I would have to speak about a librarian and archivist, Ms. Enid Maria Baa, for whom the library in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, is named. She pioneered librarianship within the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean and internationally.

She developed her love of library work when she was young. As a newly graduated student of the first high school in St. Thomas, she helped establish the first high school library.

Her interests and professional ambition led to several advanced degrees, including Hampton Institute and Columbia University.

During and after her studies at Columbia, she held professional positions at the university, at the United Nations Library, and at the New York Public Library in their reference division. After coming back home, she was appointed director of libraries and museums under Governor Archibald Alexander in 1954. Second to head the Caribbean Organization's library in Puerto Rico, she has been an editor and archivist.

Enid Maria Baa has done so much work to make sure that our history, the words of people and books, are available to all.

Many people forget about the smallest island—well, Water Island is the smallest—St. John, where there is so much work to be done and where people have worked so hard together. There was a woman who was born in June 1908, Myrah Keating Smith. She passed away and is with the elders since 1994. She was a pioneering nurse and midwife. She was the only provider of healthcare on the island of St. John for almost two decades.

She was taught as a small child in homes, organizations of people on the island of St. John bringing children together in parlors and kitchens to learn. Her parents taught her themselves. At 14, they sent her on a boat to New York City and then by train to be taught at Tuskegee Institute.

After working for some years, she came home in 1931. By foot, boat, or by horseback when there were no roads or trails, she provided healthcare to the people of St. John.

Our history is rich. There is so much that we all can learn from people who were so resilient and who were so willing to give of themselves, to go out to learn and educate themselves and come back to give to the history and the future of the people of the Virgin Islands.

I am so grateful to be a part of that history and to be a Virgin Islander whose roots go back seven generations. It is my joy to come home on the weekends during district work periods and run into, most times, people who are my cousins, my family, and, more importantly, my friends.

In this month, during March, it is even more important for us to reach back to that history. This July will be our 175th year of emancipation from slavery.

It is important that all Virgin Islanders understand the importance of working together. When we tell the story to our children about our emancipation, one of the most amazing things is that, as the slaves were organizing, they really kept it to themselves what they had planned and the day that they designated, July 3, to march to the fort and demand their freedom from the Danish military.

As they reached the fort, the Danish soldiers began looking around and de-

cided to put the cannons toward the crowd. They went to get the gunpowder to put in the cannons and realized that the gunpowder was all gone from the fort. The slaves, over a series of months, had surreptitiously and quietly removed all the gunpowder and replaced the barrels with molasses.

That takes people organizing and understanding that you can have no snitches to get something like that done and know that what was most important was them working together.

On that day, as they reached the fort in Frederiksted, the conch shell blew to give notice to the other slaves through the rest of the island. Everyone, from Christiansted at the other end of the island, out east, began marching all at once to try to demand their freedom.

When the governor realized that these slaves had organized in the manner that they had, he declared that all enslaved were now free in the Danish West Indies from henceforth on. The people of St. Croix not only liberated themselves but liberated their brothers, their sisters, and those who were on the other islands under Danish rule in St. Thomas, St. John, the Little Cays, all of the places throughout.

It is that resilience, that fortitude, which I am so grateful to have within my blood and to be a part of my history. That is now American history. That is a part of all of our history that we can all celebrate. That is an example for all of us.

That is not something to be shunned or to be ashamed of or for people to feel embarrassed about or sad. Many people would say that that could be banned in other locations. That is my history. That is a history that is now part of American history.

I am hopeful that we can all take that in, that we can all see examples for our own lives, whether we are Caribbean, Black, Hispanic, Latina, White, Caucasian, or whatever. It is a history for us all. I am so grateful for that history as we continue to live it each and every day.

To end, I also recognize outstanding Virgin Islanders who are doing amazing things today in the arts. We have Virgin Islanders who have been awarded some of the highest honors in these last months: Theron Thomas, Masai Harris, Cori Alexander, and Kyle Francis. Each received recognition at the 75th Annual Grammy Awards for their excellent work in the music industry.

Masai Harris, a native of St. Croix, was an integral part of the team that worked on reggae artist Kabaka Pyramid's second album, which garnered a Grammy for album of the year.

Theron Thomas from St. Thomas, a world-renowned producer and songwriter, received recognition for his songwriting on Lizzo's record of the year.

Both Cori Alexander and Kyle Francis, natives of St. Thomas, worked on the album "Kingdom," which won best gospel performance.

I would be remiss if I didn't lift up our sister, native Virgin Islander Janelle James from St. Thomas, who won the 54th NAACP Image Award for best supporting actress for her role in "Abbott Elementary."

These are Virgin Islanders doing amazing things.

We might be a small place, but we think big. We live our lives big. We do not restrict ourselves just to the waters surrounding where we live.

In the words of the popular Rock City song that has as its authors individuals that I mentioned who received Grammy Awards: "The world is ours, Scarface, even though we come from a small place. No matter where I'm at, I'm VI all day."

Let's continue to be VI strong and VI proud. Happy Virgin Islands History Month.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1215

WAR IN UKRAINE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, one year into Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainians' valiant defense has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties for the Russians. What the Russians believed would be a victory in a matter of days or weeks has turned into now just over a year bloody slog. The Russian bear has turned out to be a paper tiger on the fields of Ukraine.

The United States must remain committed as a partner with Ukraine to achieve victory. Victory, Mr. Speaker, or Putin and his allied nations will attack the Baltic states or take Moldova or try to control the Black Sea. Türkiye, devastated by Erdogan's economics and the recent earthquake, will now face a stark choice of remaining in NATO or becoming a Putin puppet were Putin successful in Ukraine.

Victory in Ukraine, Mr. Speaker, or China will be green-lighted to a fully nuclear madman in North Korea and attempt a blockade of Taiwan. In order to achieve that victory, President Biden must get the rest of the world even more engaged.

In December, Members of this body were briefed by the Departments of State and Treasury. I recently wrote Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen in follow-up regarding the funding strategy for supporting Ukraine with humanitarian, defense, and military means, and in their monthly costs.

I raised two principal points. First, in my view, Congress does not have the full financial picture of the contributions being made by the United States and our allies and partners on behalf of Ukraine in a straightforward and sim-

ple manner available to all Members. They don't paint a complete picture.

As a new member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I look forward to hearing from the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department in the near future on what they have been doing to track our funding in Ukraine and explain it in thorough detail to the Congress.

Secondly, I raised with the two Secretaries the successful 1990-1991 partnership between Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady in developing an active solicitation of major countries from around the world to fund the U.S. enforcement of the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing use of force to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's illegal invasion of their sovereign territory.

The result was the United States received contributions from around the world of some \$53 billion against an estimated total cost to eject Saddam Hussein from Kuwait of \$60 billion. Now, while some of those contributions were in the form of in-kind material support, more than 90 percent was paid in cash.

The United States must be more strongly engaged with our allies to share a greater financial burden for the military, humanitarian, and budget support for the Government of Ukraine.

Just a few days ago, on February 20, Japan pledged \$5.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine. This is on top of the \$1.3 billion in financial humanitarian assistance it had already pledged. This is a recent example of precisely what I think the United States Government should be achieving and achieving in a more aggressive and effective manner.

The worldwide response in support of Ukraine has been remarkable, but I believe that significantly more can be done to help Ukraine if additional countries provide more material and financial support in Europe and beyond.

The U.S. military has a unique role, an important role as the lead NATO partner in equipping, training, and providing related military materials. That mission suits us more than any other country. However, as demonstrated in my example of Kuwait, obtaining broad financial support from more sources is essential, in my view, to maintaining popular political support in Europe and in the United States for victory in Ukraine.

This also demonstrates how peoples from around the globe benefit from a prompt success of preservation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Cost of goods, access to food, fuel, and financing are all impeded by the Russian Federation's illegal action. That makes the case that all nations are hurt by Russia's aggression. All nations can support Ukraine.

President Biden must craft an active and effective campaign to bring forward the financial and material resources from around the world to fully support victory in Ukraine.

FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING BY THE CCP

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the practice of forced organ harvesting in China.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1154, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my friend. Congressman SMITH is also chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. I am proud to serve as his vice chair for that subcommittee.

Forced organ harvesting is a disgusting and appalling practice carried out against minority groups in China by the Chinese Communist Party. They prey on the Uyghur people and Falun Gong practitioners. As the world knows full well about their genocide against the Uyghurs, we should not be surprised with China's lack of medical ethics.

Nury Turkel, the chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and my recent State of the Union guest has documented forced blood sampling and organ screening of Uyghur detainees in their reeducation camps. Nury, a Uyghur who emigrated to the United States at age 24, is an eyewitness to this barbaric culture.

Just last year, the United Nations was even "extremely alarmed" on credible information that forced organ harvesting continues in Communist China. What is disappointing is that, despite years of evidence of this practice, the United States currently has no law on the books to address this issue.

The Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act will do just that by adding penalties to those that violate the National Organ Transplant Act, and it will sanction those that fund, sponsor, or facilitate forced organ harvesting or human trafficking that leads to forced organ harvesting.

This bill passed unanimously out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week, and I look forward to seeing a strong vote in the full House in the future. We will pass it here, and I expect the Senate to pass this legislation and send it to President Biden.

It is long past time for the American Government to address this challenge through legislation and put a stop to this inhumanity. I appreciate Chairman SMITH for his leadership in introducing this legislation. It is another sign to the American people of how depraved the Chinese Communist Party is in their march to violate every norm of international society.

NATIONAL HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.

I, along with my Democratic colleague, Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, reintroduced our legislation yesterday that establishes March 9 as the National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day. On March 9, 2007, Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran. He never returned home.